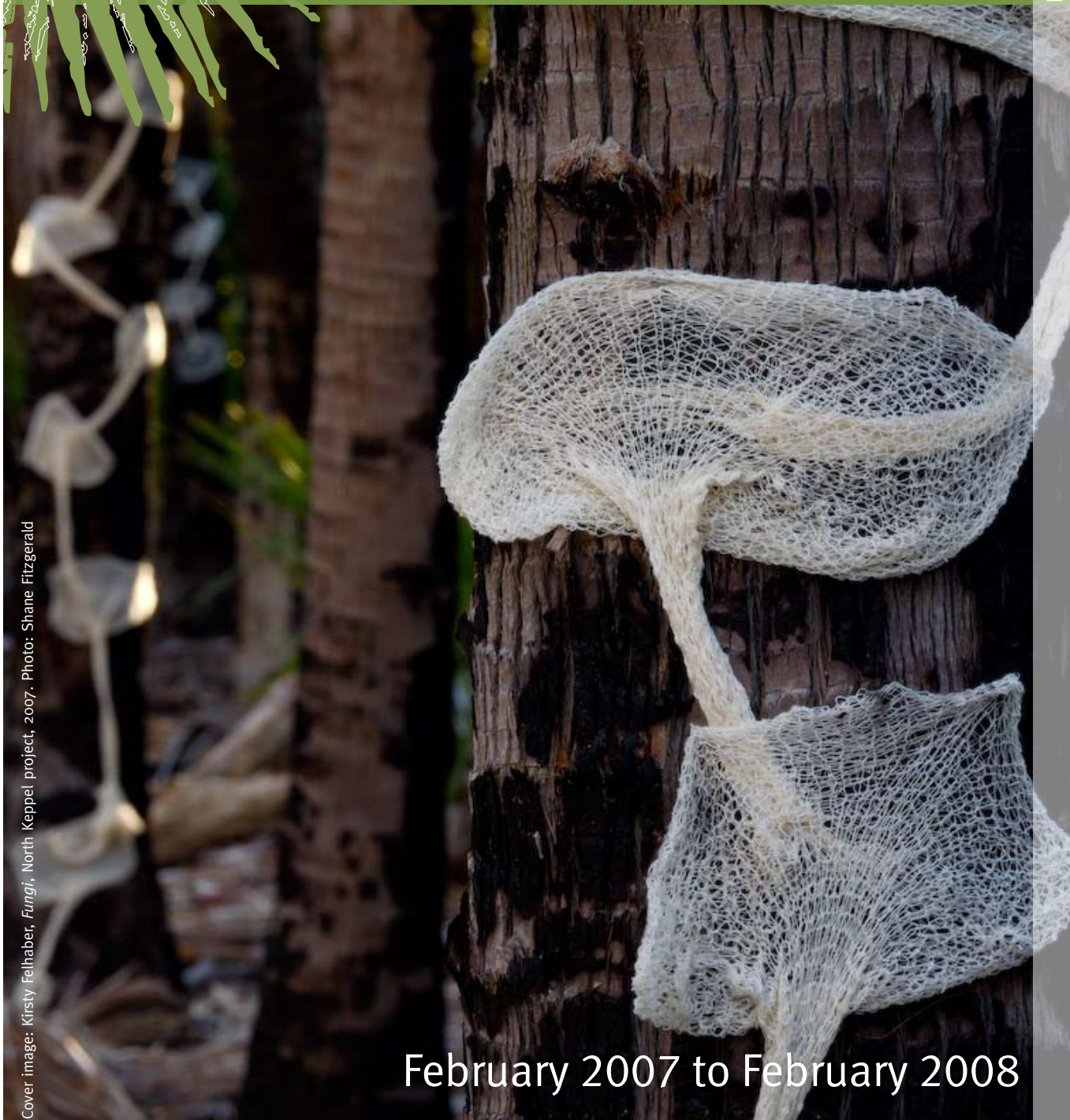


# Progress report: Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan

Arts Queensland



Cover image: Kirsty Felhaber, *Fungi*, North Keppel project, 2007. Photo: Shane Fitzgerald

February 2007 to February 2008

Queensland the Smart State

 Queensland Government  
Arts Queensland

# Introduction

---

## February 2007

The Minister launches the *Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan*

## March 2007

The Premier announces plans to establish an annual Billy Thorpe Scholarship valued at \$10 000 to honour the Australian musician who recently passed away and to support the education and training of aspiring Queensland musicians

Ceremonial sod turning marks start of construction on the \$6.9 million Hinkler Hall of Aviation in Bundaberg as part of the Millennium Regional Arts Program

In February 2007, the Minister for Education and Training and the Minister for Arts, the Honourable Rod Welford MP, released the *Queensland Arts Industry Sector Development Plan*.

Informed by an extensive state-wide consultation with the arts community, the Plan is a blueprint for the development of arts and culture in Queensland during the three-year period from 2007 to 2009.

It aims to support Queensland artists and arts organisations by introducing flexible funding models, building better regionally-based support and infrastructure, increasing international touring and export and developing Indigenous arts and culture. The Plan also aims to grow audiences for arts and culture and strengthen the viability and growth of the arts sector.

This report highlights the key achievements in implementing the first year of the Plan from February 2007 to February 2008.

Future reports will focus on progressing the specific goals for artform areas.

Under the \$2.2 million Regional Arts Development Fund, Livingstone Shire Council supported two nationally recognised environmental artists, Jill Chism and Elizabeth Woods, to work with secondary students from three schools in Yeppoon. All of the artists each created a site-specific work for display at the North Keppel Island Environmental Education Centre and another art work for exhibition at the Rockhampton Art Gallery.



Meghan Ryan, *The ripple effect*, North Keppel project, 2007. Installation by St Ursula's College students. Photo: St Ursula's College students, Shane Fitzgerald, Thomas Degotardi.

## 2007 – A bumper year in the smART state

---

### April 2007

Fresh from their sell-out seasons in the UK, Perth and New Zealand, The Kransky Sisters bring their hit show, *Heard it on the Wireless* to QPAC in Brisbane



The Kransky Sisters. Photo: Kylie Burke and Russell Stokes

2007 proved to be a very successful 12 months for Arts Queensland and the state's arts sector. Major highlights include:

- The commencement of the \$10.7 million, four-year *Backing Indigenous Arts* program to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures in communities across Queensland
- The premiere in Mount Isa of *Red Cap*, a new music theatre work about Pat Mackie and the Mount Isa Union dispute in 1964-65, as part of the 2007 Queensland Music Festival
- Launching art+place, a new Queensland public art fund of \$4 million per annum over three years to enliven public spaces and precincts across Queensland
- Queensland Ballet's tour of Europe with *Cloudland*, which tells the stories of friendship and romance that blossomed in the legendary Brisbane ballroom from the 1940s to 1980s
- Supporting arts projects in 113 local councils in remote and regional areas under the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), with allocations of \$2.2 million in Arts Queensland funding and \$1.2 million in local council funding in 2007-08
- Delivering an additional \$1.14 million as Queensland's contribution under the second year of funding for the Visual Arts and Crafts Strategy, a \$9.3 million, four-year partnership with the Australian Government.

Toowoomba songwriter, Greg Charles, was awarded the inaugural Grant McLennan Memorial Fellowship, named in honour of the late singer-songwriter of the Go-Betweens. With the \$20 000 fellowship, Greg visited New York for two months, checking out the vibrant music scene and performing at the Sidewalk Cafe in the East Village. Greg says he drew inspiration from the intense sounds of New York, and the experience of living in a new city.



Greg Charles with Robert Forster. Photo: Tony Phillips

# Flexible funding

---

## May 2007

Release of s2m Program, Arts Queensland's new funding framework for the small to medium arts sector, as well as funding of \$396 000 for nine organisations to 'kick-start' implementation of the Plan

*Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT5)* concludes at the Gallery of Modern Art, having attracted more than 350 000 visitors

Arts Queensland forged a new direction in 2007, redesigning grant programs to align with the goals and priorities outlined in the Plan and allocating \$11.3 million in competitive grants to artists and companies across the art forms in the 2007-08 financial year.

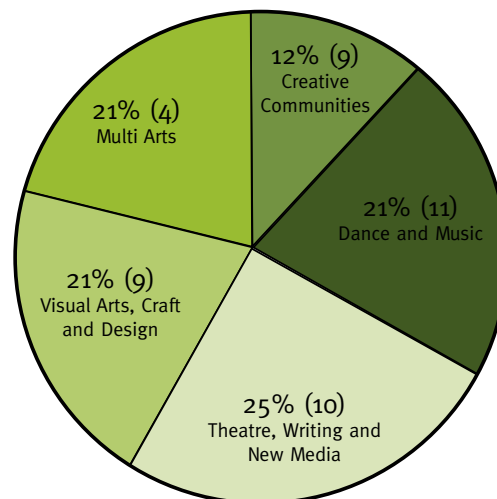
## s2m Program

The new s2m Program delivered increased funding flexibility for and a revitalisation of the small to medium arts sector. This program offers annual and multi-year funding, on a competitive basis, to small to medium organisations and replaces the previous Cultural Infrastructure Program (CIP).

In 2007-08, s2m allocated \$9.6 million of funding for 43 companies, including seven new entrants, and eight industry development initiatives.

One of the new entrants was **Multimedia Art Asia Pacific (MAAP)**, funded to support emerging new media arts practitioners to create new networks and audiences, and increase cultural exchange through the experience of new media arts in the Asia Pacific region.

## Percentage of s2m funding and number of organisations funded by artform



## June 2007

Queensland Government announces \$1 million for the planning of an international centre for sustainable design to be built in Brisbane

Queensland Writers Showcase in Los Angeles profiles eight young adult fiction writers to publishers, agents and representatives from the US film industry

Students at the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts in Brisbane stage their graduate performance piece, *Reflections – Referendum 40 years and to the Future* at the Cremorne Theatre

## Sector Project Grants

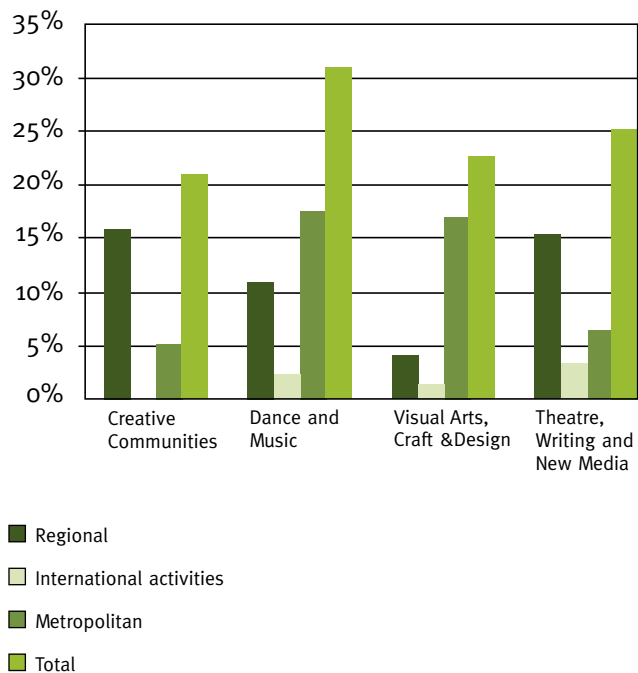
Sector Project Grants delivered \$1.7 million in one-off competitive grants for development and presentation (up to \$50 000) and for career development (up to \$5000).

Of the \$1.46 million allocated in development and presentation grants between February 2007 and February 2008, \$680 000 was awarded to regional applicants and to support arts projects in regional Queensland.

**Thuringowa Council** received \$14 040 for international artist, Alwin Reamillo, to facilitate a cross-cultural installation project in which involved 890 local young people, artists and Indigenous and multicultural groups.

A \$12 000 grant supported **Liquid Architecture 9**, a sound arts/experimental music festival in Cairns and Brisbane to showcase contemporary sound art by Queensland artists alongside key international figures.

### Development and Presentation Grants – Breakdown by artform



### July 2007

The best of Queensland's emerging musical talent performs at the Australian International Music Market to agents and festival directors from Australia, the USA, Canada, Europe, Asia and New Zealand



Tjupurru. Image courtesy of the artist

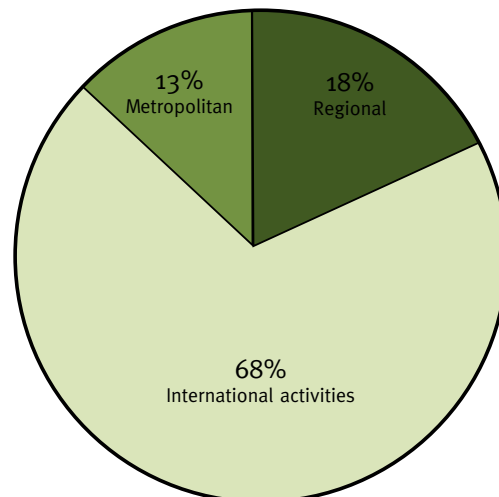
Some 68 per cent of the career development grants awarded between February 2007 and February 2008 supported artists to undertake international activities.

Textile designer and printer, **Rosie Barkus** was awarded \$5000 to visit the silk industry in Shanghai and meet with gallery representatives, including the Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art to discuss future exhibition opportunities. During her tour, Rosie learnt about large-scale screenprinting and, since her return, she has set up similar facilities in her studio on Thursday Island and incorporated these processes into her practice.

With a career development grant of \$3000, **Melissa Western** presented her one-woman musical theatre jazz cabaret *Ella, Marilyn, Marlene and Me* at the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and attended jazz tuition with teachers from the Manhattan School of Music. Merrigong Theatre Company has accepted this project into their development program.

With \$5000 support, **Kent Gratton** exhibited his range of bamboo furniture at the 100% Futures design showcase in London. His work attracted international media attention and he is fielding enquiries about distributing his range to Italy, Spain, Brazil, France, the United States and Britain among others. Kent also met with Tom Dixon, Designers Block, The Eden Project and Eco Interiors – international leaders in the fields of design and sustainability – to discuss options for setting up a global network of designers and business addressing sustainability issues.

### Career Development Grants – February 07 to February 08



## Growing audiences for arts and culture

---

### August 2007

Dennis Nona wins the \$40 000 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Two other Queenslanders – Alick Tipoti and Laurie Nilsen – take out top honours in the art awards



Image: Dennis Nona.  
Photographer: David Campbell.

Arts Queensland and arts organisations across the portfolio were pro-active in developing new audiences for the arts and encouraging people to take part in cultural activities.

- Under *Test Drive the Arts*, thousands of Queenslanders took up the offer to see some of the state's top performers and productions 'on the house'. This Government-funded program aims to introduce more Queenslanders to the experience of attending live dance and theatre performances. Recognising the value of building new audiences for the arts, the Queensland Government committed \$124 000 and the Australian Government contributed \$60 000 to the program.
- The Queensland Music Festival coordinated 40 events in 21 communities across the state, including the official opening at dawn in Winton with the African Children's Choir, and drew an overall audience of 46 000.
- In 2007, the Cultural Centre recorded more than 3 441 550 visits.

## Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture

---

Arts Queensland has made significant progress in promoting Indigenous arts and culture, particularly in Far North Queensland, building on existing programs and investment such as the Indigenous Regional Arts Development Fund and support for the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts, and also introducing the groundbreaking *Backing Indigenous Arts* initiative.

Over the next four years, *Backing Indigenous Arts* will deliver \$4.42 million to support a network of 15 Indigenous Arts Centres and hubs, \$1.63 million for a Cairns Printmaking Centre, \$1 million to establish a Cairns Indigenous Art Marketplace, and \$3.43 million for a suite of projects to build skills and opportunities across the artforms.

In 2007, implementation commenced with workshops for art centre coordinators and site analysis for the print centre in Cairns.

### September 2007

2007 Queensland Premiers Literary Awards – Elizabeth Eileen Hodgson wins David Unaipon Award for unpublished Indigenous writer; Laurie Duggan wins Judith Wright Calanthe Award for poetry collection; David Malouf wins Steele Rudd Award for Australian short story collection

### October 2007

State Library of Queensland wins the top prize for public architecture at the 2007 RAIA National Architecture Awards

Launch of *Backing Indigenous Arts* and art+place

Also in 2007:

- The **Laura Aboriginal Dance and Cultural Festival** celebrated its 30th anniversary, with more than 3000 performers, artists and visitors from Cape York and Gulf communities travelling to the festival to perform traditional dance, music and song and to display traditional arts and crafts.
- **Marilyn Miller** was awarded a grant of \$33 455 to support the creation and development of Indigenous contemporary dance in Brisbane with the work *Quinkan*.
- With \$15 000 in arts funding, the **2007 Reggaetown Festival** in Cairns featured national and international roots, Island music and reggae performers and provided a platform for young local band, Zennith, who have gone on to tour in Newcastle and Sydney.

The acclaimed exhibition, *Our Way: Contemporary Art from Lockhart River*, sponsored by Arts Queensland in partnership with the University of Queensland, opened in Brisbane and toured internationally to Singapore and New York.



Samantha Hobson, *Bushfire*, 2000. Image courtesy of University of Queensland Press

# Regional arts support and infrastructure

---

## November 2007

Launch of discussion paper and public consultation on Queensland Centre for Design



Christine Waterson, *Array*, 2007.  
State Library of Queensland.  
Photo: Phil Hargreaves

Arts Queensland continued to support service organisations and cultural infrastructure to deliver regional access to quality arts and cultural experiences. The Queensland Arts Council continued to bring the arts to the regions by touring product in partnership with regional communities through 60 Local Arts Councils.

- *Stylin' Up Regional* is an Indigenous contemporary and traditional youth arts event and arts-based skills development program. With government funding of \$110 000, this program expanded to Cherbourg, Wooralinda, Logan, Goondiwindi and Ipswich.
- Feral Arts collaborated with communities in the Charters Towers and Dalrymple region on 'Generations', a digital storytelling project that documents and tells three generations of local stories.
- The Gritty Places Partnership Program continues to make a difference to Queensland artists and communities by transforming old buildings into creative and active spaces. In 2007, the facilities funded for creativity upgrades were Redland Shire's Edgar Harley Building, Sarina's Band Hut and Yukan Railway Station, Tank 3 at the Tanks Arts Centre in Cairns, Julia Creek's 'Opera House' and Blackall's old Town Hall.

The outdoor visual arts exhibition along the magnificent Currumbin Beach, Swell Sculpture Festival attracted some 200 000 visitors in 2007. Featuring sculptures specifically created for outdoor environments by a range of international and local artists, Swell's program also included twilight sculpture tours, meet the artists talks, children's interactive sculpture, gourmet barbeques, sculpture workshops, and live music.



Kylie Baudino, *Giant Beach Worms*, 2007. Swell Sculpture Festival.

# International touring and export of Queensland arts product

---

## December 2007

Andy Warhol opens at the Gallery of Modern Art, attracting more than 230 000 visitors to the exhibition

A strategic approach to national and international market development is positioning Queensland as a dynamic provider of high quality arts and growing export opportunities for Queensland artists.

- Musicians Pete Murray, Tyrone Noonan, Transport, Resin Dogs and Intercooler attended Musexpo in Los Angeles, with support from Arts Queensland and Queensland Trade, and secured licensing deals, international radio play, movie and television song placements and interest from major record labels.
- The Queensland Centre for Photography received \$80 000 funding to present a program of exhibitions and publications, coordinate the state-wide Queensland Festival of Photography and ensure a Queensland presence at international art fairs.
- Seven high-profile home-grown acts performed before the big names of international touring and production at the Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM), which attracts more than 570 delegates from 25 countries. Dance ensemble Splintergroup; musician and instrument maker Linsey Pollak; multi-media focused Arts Asia Pacific; and Townsville's Mabo Dance Company were among the featured Queensland artists.
- Arts Queensland funding of \$20 000 supported the showcasing of Queensland design at the prestigious Triennale di Milano Design Museum in Italy. The Queensland designers featured are Ari Athans, Pamela Easton and Lydia Pearson, Alexander Lotersztain and Brian Steendyk.

Queensland's Circa has an international reputation as one of Australia's most exciting circus companies. After their world premiere of *by the light of stars that are no longer*, in Brisbane in July 2007, Circa toured to South America, New Zealand and Ireland to great acclaim. Their schedule for 2008 and 2009 includes gigs in Belgium, USA, Canada and Germany as well as hosting over 7000 workshop places in circus training programs for schools, regional areas and corporate clients.



Circa, *by the light of the stars that are no longer*. Photo: Justin Nicholas

# Strengthening the viability and growth of the arts sector

---

## January 2008

Release of Platform Papers essay by Cathy Hunt and Phyllida Shaw, titled *A Sustainable Arts Sector: What will it take?*

## February 2008

With \$100 000 support from Arts Queensland, Brisbane hosts the inaugural National Play Festival, attracting leading national and international theatre practitioners and producers and positioning Queensland as a key centre for the development of performance writing

Arts Queensland is working closely with all government-subsidised arts organisations to develop business skills and revenue generation strategies. Sound management, good governance, productive partnerships and a commitment to expand the reach and depth of engagement with the community are integral to success.

- Over \$1 million was allocated for industry development initiatives in the small to medium arts sector, including new arts development services in central and northwest Queensland; performing arts support for dancers and theatre workers in Townsville and Brisbane; and partnerships with local councils in Mount Isa, Rockhampton and Bundaberg to identify enterprises with artistic, community and commercial outcomes.
- An officer from Artsupport is now based at Arts Queensland and works to increase philanthropic support for the cultural sector.
- Queensland Orchestra has generated remarkable success in 2007, with annual ticket sales passing the \$3 million mark for the first time and winning one of the nation's most prestigious music awards, the 2007 ABC Limelight Award for Best Orchestral Performance.

## Arts Queensland's activities in 2008

---

In 2008, Arts Queensland is focusing on strengthening regional arts infrastructure, services and delivery models; the development of a new touring strategy; piloting creative production hubs to strengthen viability and growth in the performing arts; as well as strategies for developing Indigenous theatre, music and writing. We will also deliver a Queensland Design Strategy and a Contemporary Music Strategy.

Ongoing programs include art+place, *Backing Indigenous Arts*, and activities under *arts culture + me*, the strategy for children and young people.

We will continue to focus grant programs on artists and organisations who demonstrate the capacity to leverage additional revenue, audiences, impact or artistic development from government investment.